

FROM M'DOUALL.

MICHILIMACKINAC 2nd May, 1815.

MY DEAR BULGER,—I have officially informed you of what we yet know of the interesting events which have recently taken place. That rascal Cowan, whom you may recollect in charge of the provisions at Nottewasago, has been five weeks (nearly), on the road from York, with dispatches, our Letters & news papers, & not yet arrived. We have in that respect been shamefully neglected this winter. It is for me, peculiarly embarrassing, as it leaves me with but little information on some interesting & important points.

Sir Geo. Prevost has gone home, via Halifax, across the Portage, & Sir Gordon Drummond in the meantime succeeds to the government. Sir Geo. Murray commands in the Upper Province. The Kings' go home; the 41st & 49, to the West Indies! 97th York, 37th Amherstburg. I am authorised to send your detachment down the Grand River; but I consider so material a diminution of our force, as highly impolitic at this juncture when the Americans will occupy this place with a strong Garrison, and when it becomes absolutely necessary that our new Establishment should be as respectable in the eyes of the Indians as possible. I trust I shall be able to obtain Genl Drummonds consent to the erection of a Fort of such strength such a number of heavy guns, & a proportionate Garrison as will not a little tend to lessen their regret at the cession of this place.

I therefore propose to keep the Roy<sup>l</sup> Newfoundland detachment until relieved.

Our negociators as usual, have been egregiously duped: as usual, they have shown themselves profoundly ignorant of the concerns of this part of the Empire. I am penetrated with grief at the restoration of this fine Island — “a Fortress built by nature for herself.”—I am equally mortified at giving up Fort McKay to the Americans, when the Treaty itself specifies that the Indians are to be on the

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<sup>1</sup> Meaning the King's regiment.—Ed.